

Summer 2018

FOCUS



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

President's Message

By Heather Frick

The Junior League of Lansing is full of women of leadership and achievement. But I am a firm believer if we are to lead and achieve we must remove roadblocks that keep other women from leading and achieving. And to that end, our work in the community and our issue area is so critical.

Over the course of the last year, I have been able to watch and listen. This time has helped give me perspective on where the League has been, where it is

headed, and wrap my head around being your President. I am asked almost daily if “I’ll hit the ground running,” and if I am “ready.” I am as ready to be your President as I was at becoming a parent – not very. However, my daughter is eleven and we have both survived this far. So I am pretty confident that we shall all survive, and maybe even thrive, this coming year.

Throughout our League journey there have been members who have continually packed our backpacks. By that I mean, when we did not think we were ready, had the tools or knew what to do next, they listened, trained and encouraged one another. I am here today because so many people have packed my backpack preparing me for this leap to serve as your president.

I would ask you the same question. Who has packed your backpack and whose backpack have you packed? Whose backpack as a League do we pack every single day? When we encourage each other, when we cause

each other to think in a new way, when we challenge the status quo, and when we come together to find solutions we have poured into each other – only then will everything else fall into place. We are a powerhouse of dedicated, professional, well-educated women who have much to give to our community and even more to give to each other.

As your President for the 2018-19 League year, I am honored to serve all of you. We have an exceptional legacy of service as our foundation as we work to build a better League and a better Lansing. Our history is a testament to our successes but now we must look ahead because together we are capable and committed to our Mission.

We have the opportunity to continue our momentum and accomplish amazing things not unlike those that make up our rich history. A year from now, I hope we can look back and celebrate the following:



continued on next page

Junior League of Lansing Board of Directors 2018 - 2019

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Stephanie Collier

Sustaining Advisor to the Board

Kate Powers

MISSION STATEMENT

Junior League of Lansing Michigan is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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- Increased impact in the community
- Continued growth in members who live our Mission
- New fundraising sources of revenue
- Implementation of the Sustaining Advisory Council
- Furthering the work on our Issue area
- Collaboration and Partnership with other nonprofits and other Junior Leagues

I share with all of you an enormous pride for our League, and what we have accomplished. I could not be more excited to see what we will accomplish in the year ahead. The Junior League of Lansing offers women a place to volunteer, hone their leadership skills and make an impact in our community.

We have an opportunity to continue to make a difference. Alone we cannot do this. We must do this together. We must pack each other's backpacks because we are better together and together we will be unstoppable.

-Heather

UNSTOPPABLE

A LOVE LETTER TO THE LANSING LEAGUE

By Alexis Chadderdon, President 2017 - 2018

Each year opens up new and varied opportunities for each of us. My thoughts review the year with pride in each of you for your willingness to give beyond measure. The time that you contribute is the real worth of our League and the reasons for our strength.

One of my personal goals for the year was to help our members to be “advocates for ourselves and our issues”. I have been so impressed by how you have demonstrated this through your involvement in JLL this year and in your personal lives. You never cease to amaze me.

Sharing a few of the countless memories from the year, I remember how inspiring it was to read your posts each day during the Little Black Dress Initiative. I remember how powerful it was when JLL New Member, Angelica Cox, spoke on a panel during the State Public Affairs Committee’s Day at the Capitol to share her experience growing up in foster care. I remember how incredibly uplifting it was to walk into Her Time, Tea Time and Food Fun Fitness Fair and see every single detail that was planned for each event being enjoyed by children in our community. But, most of all, I will remember all of you. Your hard work, your encouragement, and your friendship. You are the ones who have made the League what it is, and you have made this one unforgettable year.

This year, I experienced so many “firsts.” The first time I walked around carrying a very large amount cash in my purse

following Lunch with League – before I made it to the bank. During the Board retreat, my first nighttime swim in Lake Michigan. My first time speaking live in front of more than 500 women at the AJLI Annual Conference. Throughout my experiences this year, I knew you would always be with me – ready to share the fun and the responsibilities with me.

Thank you all for the privilege of serving as president of the Junior League of Lansing and giving me this “once in a lifetime” opportunity. On behalf of the 2017-2018 Board, I extend the very best wishes to the 2018-2019 Board and leadership team for a most successful year. We’re off and running and it’s all yours, ladies. Keep your sights high and stretch to the limits!

Also, I was so sad to miss the May Celebration. I hope that you enjoyed my video message. I heard that the Arrangements Committee did a marvelous job, as usual, and that Heather filled in for me splendidly. We are a most fortunate organization to have Heather as our “incoming president.” Perhaps it is with nostalgia as the “outgoing president” that I envy Heather – the opportunities, knowledge, and happiness that will come from you. The Junior League will never be a static organization, for the imagination, inspiration, and initiative of its members is unparalleled.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you for the part you played during this League year.

Affectionately,
Alexis



THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE

By Anita Lindsay

I can't speak for everyone, but I know I had a week of dilemma-free mornings the week of Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI), wearing the same dress each day to work! In all seriousness, I am proud of the effort each of you put into the LBDI this year and a huge thank you to all of our contributors. Whether you donated through the Facebook cause app, through the Junior League website or did a little spring cleaning in your closet to donate to the Greater Lansing Women's Center to women in need, we exceeded our goal by far. In fact, we doubled our forecasted revenue of \$2,000. It's amazing what this group of women can do! This year was the second time the Junior League of Lansing held the campaign. It was originally started in London.

The Little Black Dress Initiative is a social media-fueled awareness campaign and fundraiser. During LBDI, members wear one black dress for five consecutive days to illustrate the effects poverty can have on someone's access to resources, confidence and opportunities.



HIGH HEELS AND HIGH TEA

By Anita Lindsay

The High Heels and High Tea (HH&HT) committee went above and beyond this year, not only doubling attendee numbers but adding an additional event to educate and inspire the younger generation of women. The new Her Time Tea Time event, geared for girls ages 5 to 13, included STEM activity tables, engaging speakers and of course, photos with fairy tale tea cups. The annual HH&HT event included shopping from our generous sponsors, formal attire and tea. This year a keynote speaker presented which I personally found to be motivational and inspirational. A new location proved to be a great choice to extend this fundraiser event! The committee raised over \$14,000! Next year, I challenge you to not only attend the event, but bring someone in your life who is special to you, who is not in Junior League. The committee would like to thank all of the event sponsors listed here, and thank you Susan Lupo for generously sponsoring the pianist again this year.

Thank you to all our sponsors: Susan Maples, DDS; Matilda Jane Clothing; DTN; Douglas J. Salon and Spa; Saks 5th Avenue; Kenneth Brandt Salon and Spa; Kellie's Consignment; Diana Liang Photography; Phillips Photo; Photobug Photo Booth; Peetie Bird; Physicians Health Plan; O'Leary Paint; Bubble Island Coffee & Tea; LaFille Gallery; Haslett East Lansing Dental Health & Wellness; LightRx; HEAT Blow Dry and Beauty Boutique; Power House Gym; First National Bank of Michigan; LimeLight; Goldfish; Luke Landscaping; Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris PLC; Champps Kitchen + Bar; Rodan and Fields; Mitten Raised; Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop; VisionCare; JoyRide; Wine Shop At Home; Propellers; Hude Legal Services; Ruhala Performing Art; Discover Smiles Pediatrics Dentist; MSU STEM; Timeout Play Cafe; Jean Jean Vintage; InspiredHome Real Estate - Amanda LaVoie, Kristin Keiswetter Clark; Tinkr Lab; European Wax Center; Waggoner Financial Group of Northwestern Mutual; The Barre Code East Lansing; and Gala Rentals.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

By Audra Putt and Linzy Pederson

This year's Kids in the Kitchen was partnered with Lansing Parks and Recreation to put on a group event titled the Food Fitness Fun Fair. Nearly 100 children were brought by parents or guardians to the Gier Community Center on May 12 to participate in a range of healthy living activities. Event attendees were able to spend as much time as they pleased at stations that were set up in the community center gym and rooms including fitness classes for kids (yoga, zumba and cardio drumming), obstacle course, oral hygiene, food demonstrations, gardening, health and nutrition games, Lansing Fire and Police Department, and a community resources table. The kids were also excited to go home with raffle prizes such as cooking utensils, outdoor activities, gardening supplies and sports equipment that would help motivate them to stay healthy and active after they left the event. The Kids in the Kitchen committee (made up of both new

and active members) along with Done in a Day volunteers all came together to make this successful community event possible!

A special thank you to all that helped sponsor, promoted, or donated to the Food Fitness Fun Fair - The Gier Community Center, Lansing Park and Recreation, Foods for Living, Kroger, Target, Goldfish Swim School - Okemos, Delta Dental, Home Depot, Impression 5, Brace Financial Services, Tru-Cut Lawnscapes, MSU Master Gardener Program, Lansing Fire Department - Fire Station #2, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Peckham, Child and Family Charities, Dart, Suzanne Zalinski - Yoga, Mandi Gilpatrick - Zumba, Cheryl Sorah and Michal Heyboer - Cardio Drumming, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, City Limits, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Allen Neighborhood Center, and Lansing School District.





SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

By Jackie Lillis Warwick

Aya Mohhamed Salih – Traditional Student

Aya is currently attending East Lansing High School and will be pursuing a degree in the medical field at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in the fall. She volunteers at the Edgewood Village Community Center where she has helped out with a coat drive for low income families, worked in their community garden and tutored students at their after school programs.

Aya is active in her mosque planning community events such as food drives and contributing to the everyday maintenance of the facilities. She has served as President of the Muslim Student Association of ELHS, which allows her to share diversity in her community. In this capacity, Aya planned a Holiday Dinner and International Dinner for her school and community where people came together to explore different cultures and food and raise money for Syrian refugees.

One of her references stated, “Aya is an amazing student who has demonstrated a great aptitude for time management and academic excellence.” The Scholarship Committee was truly impressed with Aya and all she has done to help those in need in her community and for her dedication to celebrate diversity.

Dhan Bhandari – Non-Traditional Student

Dhan may sound familiar, and that’s because she was awarded the Bernice Olds Roe Scholarship last year, and the Scholarship Committee was just as impressed with her now as they were then. Dhan is attending Lansing Community College with the goal of becoming a nurse or a doctor so she can fulfill her goal to travel to less-advantaged countries and open a government hospital or free clinic, and provide medical treatments to those who cannot afford it themselves.

Dhan’s commitment to voluntarism is demonstrated by her involvement in the Link Crew, the Bhutanese Society and the English as a Second Language Program. The Linked Program helps college freshman during their transition from high school to college. She helps with homework, time management skills, provides moral support and even organizes cocoa for study sessions.

In her capacity as an ESL volunteer and member of the Bhutanese Society, she has traveled throughout the region applying her translating skills to people who need them to fill out medical documents. Dhan has even served in maternity wards interpreting for mothers during the delivery process. For all these reasons, the Scholarship Committee chose to recognize Dhan again and look forward to following her story.

Caroline Stevens Svanda – Bernice Olds Roe Scholarship

Caroline is currently attending Portland High School and will pursue her post-secondary education at Liberty University. Voluntarism is in her blood, as her mother is a Past President of the Junior League of Lansing, and she was often by her mother’s side at JLL volunteer events. She is even in the background of FOCUS photos packing back packs at St. Vincent’s Catholic Charities. The JLL women inspired her to pursue her own volunteer projects. These included distributing food at a mobile food pantry and developing a “Cinderella Closet” for girls who could not afford dresses for formal dances. Through her church, Caroline volunteers with preschool children, is a member of the Student Leadership Team helping develop positive experiences for church youth, and serves as a Camp Counselor for girls in first through third grade. Additionally, she has gone on church missions to Kentucky, West Virginia and Panama. In Panama, she spent a week assisting with building projects and working with children in the Cuna Village School.

Her work with the Ionia County Youth Advisory Council has allowed her to volunteer in nursing homes and participate in various fundraisers. A noted event was the “Strive to Arrive Alive” conference where the Council helped raise awareness about distracted driving. Caroline is working with special needs children though one of her current high school classes and she regularly volunteers at school activities. Through all of her volunteering, Caroline is most inspired by her work educating children. Her dedication to voluntarism was initially born in the JLL, but it is evident that she has fostered and developed that passion on her own and the Scholarship Committee was pleased to award her the Bernice Olds Roe Scholarship.

SUSTAINER UPDATE

By Joan Bauer

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Junior League of Lansing this past year as the Sustaining Advisor to the Board. As the JLL year draws to a close, I look back at our organization with such pride. I am so impressed by the board, the chairs, and the active members who work so hard to carry out the Junior League mission of developing leadership skills and making our community a better place.

Kate Powers accepted the position of Sustaining Advisor for 2018-19 and brings a wealth of skills, experience and talent to the position. Kate will be a great asset to the Board and to our sustainers.

Sustainers continue to play a vital role in the organization in so many ways. In the past six months, we supported the popular High Heels and High Tea fundraiser by buying tickets and attending. Special thanks to Maggie Papesh for donating her mother's tea cups! We also turned out for the annual MSU School of Hospitality Destination Auction that supports the JLL Endowment Fund. Thank you Ginny Brooks and Kate Powers (Endowment Fund chair and co-chair) and sustainer Nancy Nyquist for all your work on this event. Jane Bitsicas and Debby Harrison stepped forward to present "JLL in the 1980s and 1990s" at a membership meeting. Donna Gardner provided important input to the Governance Committee.

Kim Hartman was very busy this past year developing and formalizing a new structure that will increase sustainer engagement, provide assistance to the JLL board and councils, oversee sustainer social activities, and provide support to the sustaining advisor. The Sustainer Advisory Council is appointed by the JLL President and members are Kate Powers, Kim Hartman, Lynn Fiedler, Donna Gardner, Michelle Lange and Joan Bauer. There will be subcommittees to carry out the council work and we thank sustainers who have already volunteered to be involved.

This past year we were saddened to lose Phyllis Maner, Jamie Haley, Patricia Crouse, Barbara Schaberg, Rosemary Bettman, Jane Tabler, Forrest "Ann" Reutter, and Janet Foster. Collectively these eight amazing women were Junior League members for over 500 years!

Congratulations to Kim Hartman who received the "Sustainer for Life" membership award at the May Celebration

for her continual support of JLL and her work on behalf of the organization.

The JLL year ended with the annual Past Presidents' Luncheon organized by Kelly Miller on June 5 at the Country Club of Lansing. Over 20 past presidents enjoyed this most treasured JLL tradition where outgoing President Alexis Chadderdon updated us on the past year and incoming President Heather Frick shared her goals for the coming year.

Thank you to all our sustaining members for your continual support of this organization that played an important role in our lives. We truly do "sustain" the Junior League of Lansing and the active members recognize and appreciate our continual support and involvement.



ENDOWMENT FUND

By Ginny Brooks

Year-end Report for 2017/2018 Fiscal Year Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund

On behalf of the current Board of Trustees, we'd like to thank our JLL members for their contributions this year. Donations are deposited with our investment partner, Tri-Star Trust Bank. Per our JLL Endowment Fund bylaws, 5% of the fund balance is given to the Junior League of Lansing on an annual basis to be used according to the league's mission. I'd like to thank our trustees this year: Kate Powers, Vice Chair; Dave Wakeland, Trustee; Nathan Triplett, Trustee; Kayla Byrd-Daniels, Treasurer; and Heather Frick, former President-Elect. Your time and input was greatly appreciated. Thank you for the following donors:

The School of Hospitality Business, Michigan State University; Kristen Pricco*; Shirley Paxton; Jan and Jim Gross; Greg and Chrissie Brogan*; Ruth Ridgway; Catherine Brennan*; Wendy Faulhaber; Katie Strong*; Susan Lupo*; Sandy Little*; Stacy Bogard; Pam and Joe Ruth*; Mary Jane Wilson*; Barbara Wirtz*; Tricia Foster; Eleanor & Leonard Charcut*; Cathy Lazar*; Cheryl Bartholic; Donna Hay; Nancy and Pete Sheldon; Mary Beth Pirich*; Nancy Shepard*; Debby Harrison; Daniel and Margaret Brodbeck; Joan Bauer*; Barb Clelland*; Alexis Chadderdon; Andrea Barnes; Lindsey Uppal; Mary Ellen Maas; Susan Patterson; Sandy Grettenberger; Marian Korroch; Katie Lynwood; Carolyn Dudley; Christie Lemon; Candy Parker; Annie Hayes; Patricia Brogan; Maggie Frankland; Catherine Hibbard; Sue Mills*; Betty Moore; Catherine Cleveland; Mary Ann Austin; Mary Liechty; Ellen McKay; Jennifer Schnick; Lynn

Fiedler; Denise Shaheen; Fran Carr; Sally McCoy; Mary Van Wieren; Phyllis Irwin; Pam Gillespie; Kimberly Buta-Blair; Jan Kahl; Diane Tarpoff; Susan Allis; Marilyn Nugent; Deb Atkinson; Beth Burnett; Alex Wiesner; Lisa Callaghan-Keeler; Lori Noyer; Rebecca Kosta; Amy Crites; Ann Chick; Betsy Svanda*; Dana Zecchino; Nancy Mooney; Kirsten Soltis; Meredith Jacqutis; Barbara Fishell; Donna Gardner; Lisa Whiting Dobson; Tracy Jelneck; Jessica Tramontana; Barbara Hamilton; Beverly Oetzel; Carrie Waggoner; Patricia Croom; Kimberly Hartman; Virginia Brooks; Jennifer Pace; Marilyn Desjardins; Tula Frangos; Linda Smith; Alicia Brace; Angela Vlahakis; Lori Fuller; Barbara Lindquist; Betsy Rosekrans; Jo Hacker; Karen McCloskey; Patricia Scott; Linda Grua; Karen Hubbard; Nanette Naser; Susan Crippen; Caryn Edwards; Donna Hay*; Linda Dansby; Amy Suhrhenrich; Maggie Papesh; Mary West; Domonique Brace; Janet Freund; Heather Frick; Ann Vogelsang; Barbara Clark; Pat Linnell; Kathryn Ault; Candance Barnes; Zoe Bassos; Carolyn Boger; Susan Combs; Barbara Galloway; Jody Haddad; Amy Sue Melville; Dianne Mohnke; Nicki Sanford; Sue Ann Gulliford; Dorothy Martin; Alyson Kechkaylo; Ana Whitman; Beth Cook; Darrell Duffield; Daniele Johnson; Stephanie Collier; Katherine Hude; Jaclyn Warwick; Susan Brewster; Kristin Kildea; Suzanne Kregel; Julie Morgan; Rebecca Paalman; Kay Ellen Riegel; Christina Shaw; Dorothy Spousta; Georgia Condon; Mary Lind Olson; Betty Vlahakis; Heidi Hansen; Suzanne Tuck; Kristin Barber; Jessica Eyde; Pam Wakeland; Patricia Wilson; Leah Ann Sherer; Marcia Gresens; Melanie Bell; Kristin Clark

**more than one donation received in the 2017/18 fiscal year.*

Thank you for your support of our League's Endowment Fund!

Did you know...

If you are over 70½, that you have a unique opportunity to make a difference with the Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund?

How to do it...

The Tax Reform Act of 2017 and the rules within the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement funds provide a unique way for you to give a charitable gift and potentially reduce your taxable income. As a retiree, you have to withdraw your RMD each year and it is taxable to you as income. Congress has allowed an exception if you make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to a 501(c)(3) organization like the JLL Endowment Fund. The amount of the QCD up to \$100,000 a year can be given to the charity and is not included as taxable income to you.

The added benefit of this type of giving is that, with the new standard deduction amounts on your 1040 tax return being over \$24,000 for a married filing jointly, most people will not be able to itemize their charitable giving. The QCD idea allows you to still make the gift and not have the income reported as a taxable amount to you. This will give you a great benefit and your generosity will help the JLL Endowment Fund continue to grow and fulfill its mission of support to the Junior League of Lansing.

GRANTS

By Katrina Daniels

It is hard to believe that the 2017-2018 year is ending! As the VP of Community I learned so much about myself, the JLL and our community in the Greater Lansing area. In this role I was delighted to work with a committee of dedicated and thoughtful women who helped guide the disbursement of money into the community to support our mission. Here is a snapshot of our sponsorships and grants.

Sponsorships:

- Volunteers of America, \$1,000
- The Greater Lansing Food Bank, \$1,500
- The Allen Neighborhood Center, \$2,000

2017-2018 Grants

Community Response Grants

(usually two at \$1,500 for a total of \$3,000)

Housing Services of Mid-Michigan, \$1500

This is for an emergency fund that will give small amounts of money to those in need of assistance such as money for an ID, an apartment application, a bus pass, etc. This supports our access area of need.

Child and Family Services, \$1,000

This will help this organization purchase mattresses and crib sheets for their youngest homeless.

Clinton Gratiot Habitat for Humanity, \$750

These funds will be used to purchase kitchen cabinets for a home that will house a single mother and her two children. These will be built by inmates who will learn marketable skills through this experience.

Haven House, \$750

We are funding Haven House to help purchase new mattresses.

Community Impact Grants

South Lansing Community Development Association, \$6,221

We are funding this project that will make improvements on an urban garden that supports refugee families by providing them fresh food. These grant dollars will pay for a 4,700 square foot drip tape irrigation system in the garden and other improvements.

Refugee Development Center, \$7,279

We are funding this organization to support the direct distribution of food and clothes to refugees entering our community. It should be noted that 80% of refugees are women.

2018 NEW MEMBERS



Ruth Archer

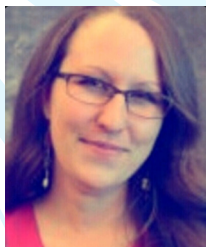
Ruth graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Economics. She currently works for the State of Michigan in the Office of Performance and Transformation. In this role, she uses her skills to facilitate lean process improvement projects within the State of Michigan. Ruth enjoys roles where she can positively impact people and processes. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, advocating for causes she's passionate about, and spending time with her cat, Lola.



Jessica Averill-Hammond

Originally from Pinconning, Michigan, Jess, along with her husband and their two pups, now call Lansing home. Shortly after graduating from Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor's in Public Administration/Political Science, she moved to Lansing to start work for the Michigan Senate and is currently a chief of staff for a State Senator. Prior to working for the Legislature she worked for a weekly newspaper for five years.

Jess is very passionate about her community and serves on the board for Old Oakland Neighborhood Association. Helping to create neighborhoods that feel like families is very important to her. Jess travels in as much of her spare time as possible-she and her husband enjoy exploring and experiencing new places. She is also pretty happy if she has a camera or book in her hands, or is binging on all things Harry Potter, Gilmore Girls, and Shondaland.



Cristin Barber

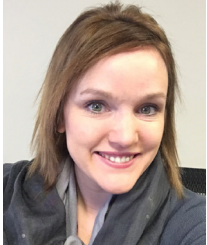
Cristin began working at 15, investing several years in retail, sales, and customer service. After surviving a life threatening car accident at 18 years, her whole life perspective was changed. Her college years were spent working with youth in various organizations, creating and facilitating living history education and environmental education programs for a variety of public groups. This period also included a year-long service project that encompassed working with inner-city youth, homeless men and women, elderly persons in nursing homes and those unable to leave their homes. She valued her education and graduated cum laude in 2011 with her undergraduate degree.

After graduation she joined the banking world and has demonstrated results-driven passion to make a difference in many members lives, as well as helping others in different organizations, leadership, proven project management, strong ability to inspire others, customer-focused sales, demonstrate personal integrity and credibility through committed work ethic, demonstrated ability to adjust priorities quickly to further results pertaining to long and short-range professional and personal goals. She follows a visionary philosophy in how to spend her time and see the potential of many hands working together to create a better world. Her ultimate desire in life is to make a positive change in the world, both with her professional endeavors and personal pursuits.



Beth Bowen

Beth Bowen is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a Master's degree in Composition & Communication. She has spent the past 20 years as a professional writer, educator, and small business owner in various industries. For the second half of 2017, Beth has been running a campaign to become a State Representative where she hopes to bring new leadership and creativity to the office. She lives in Lansing with her husband and two children.



Alicia Brace

After graduating from Montana Bible College, Alicia opened a coffee shop in Sunfield, MI and ran it for about 7 years. During her time in Sunfield, she was also elected Village Clerk. She now works in the financial services industry as an office manager and insurance agent. Alicia has three dogs and enjoys gardening and traveling. And is hoping to purchase her first home in 2018!



Lainie Buckles

Lainie was an Executive Assistant at MSU, The American Cancer Society, and Michigan Fitness Foundation before starting her own cleaning business, Domestic Divas Cleaning Services. Lainie's business started with just herself, as a part-time weekend warrior to earn extra money for family vacations. Quickly, however, this part-time job grew into a full-time career as she added 4 full-time employees and several part-time employees to help her with the rapidly increasing residential and commercial business. Voted "Best Cleaning Service" by The City Pulse in both 2016 & 2017, Lainie attributes her success to having the best, most loyal employees and to her love of working with people.

Lainie is married with 5 children, has a {pet} potbellied pig she considers to be her 6th baby, and is passionate about showing her children the world and giving back to her community. Volunteering to clean for cancer patients undergoing treatment & Relay For Life are just a couple programs close to her heart.



Ally Caldwell

Ally Caldwell is an account coordinator who works as a liaison between clients and all internal team members, to effectively and efficiently achieve client marketing and advertising goals. Caldwell brings her background in communications, social media and public relations to Gŭd Marketing, where she utilizes her strong work ethic and organizational skills. In addition to account management, she has been involved in content marketing, public relations, media tracking and research. Ally has experience working with local, statewide and national organizations in a variety of industries including natural resources, education, transportation and housing. She is proud to serve her profession and community through active participation in Junior League of Lansing, Central Michigan Public Relations Society of America (CMPRSA) and Grand River Connection. Ally is as alumnus of Michigan State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in communication.

2018 NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUED



Brittany Catalano

Brittany grew up in St. Charles, Illinois, got her degree from Central Michigan University and has lived in the mid-Michigan area since 2006. She is a mother of two boys, 4 and 1 years old, married to an accountant, and a teacher for the past 10 years at Mason High School teaching business and technology courses. She volunteered more before children, but recently has only been helping as part of her role as co-National Honor Society advisor. She is excited to meet new people, have an excuse to leave the boys at home, and to give back to the community.



Angelica Cox

Angelica is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University. She currently works at the Waggoner Financial Group as an Associate Financial Representative. Her goal is to continue her education at MSU Law School to become an Estate Planning Attorney. In her spare time, Angelica enjoys playing softball, volunteering, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family.



Jamie Devlin

Originally born and raised in Southeastern Michigan, Jamie relocated to East Lansing to attend Michigan State University. At MSU, Jamie was involved with Habitat for Humanity (Lansing chapter) for four years, serving on the executive board each year and elected as President her senior year. She helped build Habitat communities in Florida each spring break, and aided Lansing families in fulfilling their dreams to become homeowners. Jamie also spent a great deal of time in South America studying and volunteering at free health clinics. Now she lives and works in Lansing as a proud Sparrow nurse. She is recently engaged to her fiancé, planning to get married in spring 2019. No children yet, but her dog Hollis is happy to fill that role for now! Her favorite hobbies include traveling (especially where she can use her Spanish), hiking/kayaking/canoeing, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying all of the good eats and breweries Lansing has to offer.



Erin Dittmer

Born and raised in Grand Ledge, Erin is a proud MSU alumnus (Go Green!) She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently a State of Michigan employee working for the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. She enjoys playing volleyball, photography, and spending time with her boyfriend, family and friends, and dog. She aspires to learn of new ways to help her community and better herself along the way.



Tracey Epley

Tracey Epley was born and raised in the Philadelphia area, but moved to Michigan 12 years ago after marrying her Detroit-native husband. She is a dentist by training, but she hung up her drill for something more flexible and now owns and runs a home-based skincare business. She now spends her days caring exclusively for her favorite patients - her three daughters, ages 9, 7, and 4. She has a passion for empowering other women, and uses her home-based business to offer opportunities to other women to help them take back their lives and give them a vehicle for change in their lives. Her passion is singing, and in her spare time (ha), she can be found singing and performing around the Lansing Metropolitan area.



Patricia Garber

Patricia grew up in Hastings, Michigan but has lived in the Lansing area for over 5 years. She is currently a Legislative Aide for State Representative Julie Calley. Previously, she worked for State Representative Jeff Farrington and served as an intern for Representative Forlini and the Constituent Relations Department. Patricia also worked for Representative Diana Farrington's 2016 Campaign for State Representative. She received her bachelor's degree in Professional Writing and Interdisciplinary Sciences from Michigan State University. She is currently a National Physique Competitor and working towards becoming a certified trainer for the local YMCA. Patricia is also a current member of the 2018 Michigan Political Leadership Program. She spends her free time reading fantasy, finding new adventures with her dog and pretty much any outdoor activity.



Heidi Hansen

Dr. Heidi Hansen was born and raised on the family farm in Charlotte, MI. In 2010, Dr. Hansen opened her Balanced Health Chiropractic Center in Charlotte and embraces the world of alternative health. Her goal is to give you the tools for overall health so that you can have a better quality of life.

Dr. Heidi has been very active in the community and has been a member of the Michigan Association of Chiropractors, International Chiropractic Pediatric Association, Charlotte Jaycees, Training Coordinator for the Michigan Jaycees, volunteers with #LoveCharlotte, has participated with The Revue community theater in Nashville, MI, and is on the Medical Billing and Coding Advisory Board at LCC.

#CharlotteMIRocks and Ladies in the 'Lotte social media pages were started by Dr. Heidi. #CharlotteMIRocks was inspired from the Kindness Rock Project where painted rocks are hidden throughout the area with pictures being posted on the site as well as posts with positive happenings around town. Ladies in the 'Lotte was designed to create a network of women in the area and to create commerce. Currently, Charlotte host a Ladies Night the second Thursday of every month.

Cooking, singing, gardening, tailgating, trivia, quilting, wine tasting and spending time with her family and friends are just a few of Dr. Heidi's many interests. Her next big project is remodeling her grandmother's farm house and rejuvenating the farmstead.

2018 NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUED



Tayler Heath

Tayler Bannasch Heath is a Northern Michigan native, spending her childhood on the shores of Lake Huron. After earning two Bachelor's degrees in Public Health Education and Therapeutic Recreation from Central Michigan University, she relocated to the Lansing area for work. Tayler currently serves on the Advisory Board and Chapter Association for her sorority Phi Mu and as the Behavioral Health Section Co-Chair for the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. She also volunteers with The Trevor Project, an organization that provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people ages 13–24. Newlywed in 2016, Tayler enjoys spending time with her husband, Casey, and their rescue dog, Clyde. A few of her other favorite things: kayaking, hiking, wine, reading, and traveling.



Bilky Joda-Miller

Bilky is a 28-year breast cancer survivor, diagnosed in October of 1990. She has two grown children and started All Body Kneads LLC, a massage therapy practice. Bilky also founded Mid-Michigan Massage Therapy Institute, where we help people whose lives have been touched by quality of life issues with Massage Therapy Services.

Bilky credits Massage Therapy with bringing her back to 100% after her cancer diagnosis and treatment. "After surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, reconstructions and all the other medical parts of the treatment and recovery process of cancer, I was left in pain. My doctor recommended massage therapy and after a couple of months I was off all my meds and felt much better emotionally".

Having cancer made her realize how strong a person she was and made a fight to stay around for her children, family and to be an advocate against this dreadful disease. It also made her realize what massage could do for people in these situations. So, she started MMMTI.



Daniele Johnson

Daniele is a University of Michigan Alumnus with a degree in English Literature/Communications. She is currently working as a Personal Lines Underwriting Team Lead at the Hanover Insurance Group. In her personal time she enjoys cooking, travelling, reading and Michigan summer outdoor activities.



Kristin Johnson

Kristin moved to the greater Lansing area after she got married. She is a Licensed Cosmetologist and works with a Professional Cosmetics & Natural Skincare Company as well. She loves her profession, and enjoys making women feel good. She is a huge animal lover! She and her husband have a cat and a dog (both rescues) that are our children. Kristin has been looking for a way to feel more connected to the area, meet friends, and to make a positive impact in her community. She thinks Junior League came into her life when she needed it. She can't wait to meet more of the incredible women in this group.



Leah Koval

Leah graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in Spanish. After graduation, she lived in the Dominican Republic from 2010-2011 where she taught Kindergarten and ESL (English as a Second Language). Upon returning to Lansing, she worked for MSU Federal Credit Union but later accepted a position as an International Account Manager at Dart Container Corporation. She currently works for Dart and manage accounts in Mexico, Argentina, Continental Europe, and the United Kingdom. Leah is excited to begin her journey with the Junior League of Lansing to build a network of women who want to excel and be involved in their community.



Samantha Kramer

Samantha grew up in Holt, Michigan and currently lives in St. Johns, MI. She went to GVSU where she studied biology. She works at Emergent BioSolutions as a lab technician manufacturing the anthrax vaccine. She is currently engaged (hooray!) and has a dog named Bailey! Samantha loves being outside, and exploring, traveling, and helping out in her community.



Tiffany LaPeer

Tiffany received her Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University, and her Master of Arts degree from University of Michigan Flint. She is currently an adjunct instructor at Lansing Community College and Jackson College, where she teaches Composition. Tiffany is currently on the Advisory Board with her sorority Sigma Kappa, with the Alpha Tau Chapter at Michigan State University. Even while working at two colleges, and serving on the advisory board with Sigma Kappa, she intends to apply to the HALE Ph.D. program at Michigan State for fall 2019. When she has any free time, she likes to read, study for the GRE exam, and relax watching television. Additionally, she also plans on getting an Alaskan Malamute puppy in the spring/summer.



Justina Lyons

Justina Lyons is a Lab Analyst at Merit Laboratories in East Lansing. She currently lives in REO Town. In her free time she likes to hang out with friends, watch Netflix, advise for her sorority, and try out the new restaurants that have been popping up around Lansing. She is joining the Junior League in hopes of making new friends, while also improving the community (and because her sister is a member of JL of Ann Arbor!).

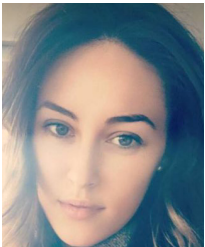
2018 NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUED



Melissa Martinez

While Mel was born and raised in Rochester Hills, MI, she spent 12 years living on the east coast in NY and Boston before moving back to MI several years ago. Mel is passionate about health and fitness, and is an avid Crossfitter and Olympic weightlifter. She is currently pursuing certification and training to become a Crossfit coach. Mel loves creative outlets and has a degree in culinary arts, and also enjoys pursuing her passions in glass blowing and photography. She is currently the Account Coordinator with Domestic Divas Cleaning Services; she loves building relationships with her commercial and residential clients, and providing a service that enhances people's lives and brings a smile to their face.

Mel and her husband enjoy the outdoors - camping, canoeing, and hiking; and love to entertain guests in their home. Their fur babies, a cat and a dog, keep them busy and laughing, and so do the many dogs they dog sit for.



Christina Maskaluk

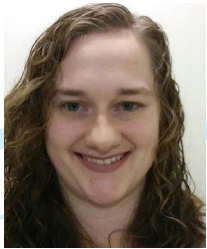
Christina graduated from Michigan State University in 2015 with a Bachelor's of Science in Physiology and is currently applying to medical school. At Michigan State, she had the opportunity to attend two medical missions trips in the Dominican Republic and Brazil. On these trips she developed a passion for public health and medical education. During her 4 years at Michigan State, she also volunteered teaching GED math and science to Lansing school kids.

Christina recently became engaged, with the wedding scheduled for this upcoming August. When she's not busy planning the ceremony, she enjoys horseback riding, reading, and cooking. Christina is excited to begin working and volunteering in her community.



Jenny McInerney

Jenny majored in History and English at Albion College, with a concentration from the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service, and received her law degree from Wayne State University. She spends much of her time finding the fun in proposed legislation before the Michigan House of Representatives as a legislative analyst with the House Fiscal Agency. The rest of her time is divided between reading, riding her bike, listening to podcasts, convincing people that baseball and Broadway musicals are awesome, and following interesting stories down rabbit holes. She studied and worked in London for a semester, and participated in an AmeriCorps program (City Year) in Boston for a year, working in a school and an after-school program. She hasn't volunteered as much as she would have liked since then, so is looking forward to the opportunities Junior League will provide, and to meeting all the members!



Christine Nelson

Chrissy grew up in Manistee and currently resides in Charlotte. She graduated from Michigan State University's James Madison College. She majored in Social Relations and Policy as well as Criminal Justice. After graduating Christine started working in Governor Rick Snyder's Executive Office as a Constituent Relations Representative, where she is currently employed. Christine enjoys spending time with friends and family and being Up North.



Carley Poulsen

Carley is originally Canadian, however moved to Okemos (March 2017) by way of Texas, where she had been living since 2009. Carley studied Kinesiology and then completed her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy. She worked in a large rehabilitation hospital in Texas until her first son was born in 2014. She now stays at home full time with her two young boys. She also teaches Stroller Strides classes with FIT4MOM Meridian Township. Carley enjoys playing all sports with her boys, running and cooking healthy meals for her family.



Allison Purtell

Allison Purtell is an insurance professional who works with insurance agents to serve their customers when unexpected life events strike. Allison is passionate about helping people and believes in building a positive community. She holds a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Administration, is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt (CLSSGB,) and active in professional insurance studies through The Institutes. Allison enjoys reading, camping, and spending time with family and friends.



Andreina Schrauben

Andi Schrauben is a graduate of Florida International University College of Engineering. She is originally from Venezuela and lived in Miami, Florida for 13 years prior to moving to Michigan in 2014. Andreina has worked in the biomedical engineering industry for over 6 years, and has held positions with Johnson & Johnson and Stryker Corp. She is currently employed at Centurion Medical Products in Williamston as a product engineer.

Andreina is recently married to her husband Mike, and they have a cat named Mia. She is an active volunteer for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization where she enjoys spending time with her little sister. In her spare time, Andreina enjoys traveling, dancing, and spending time with her friends and family. She is still trying to figure out how to drive in the snow.

2018 NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUED



Daelynn Shafer

Daelynn Shafer is an alumna from Western Michigan University in organizational communications. She currently owns Kenneth Brandt Salon and Spa and is pursuing her realtor license. She founded a local group, Entrepreneur Enterprises, which is a networking of female businesses owner who support each other and their community. She resides in Mason with her husband Clayton and dog Layla Bean. Daelynn enjoys vintage and antique shopping, reading, supporting local events and businesses, the arts and coffee.



Vanessa Shafer

Vanessa hails from East Lansing and now resides in Okemos. After receiving a degree as an independent Scholar in Stage Direction at Lake Forest College, she spent the next decade in Portland, Oregon. Missing her family, she returned to Michigan and continued her work in the hospitality industry. Looking for something more rewarding, she now runs a non-profit that focuses on community revitalization and business development. When not working to make Lansing a better place to live, she enjoys spending time with her son at her cottage up north, reading and playing with her 120 lb. “puppy” Jaxson and his little brother Rigby.



Jessica Sobel

Jessica was born and raised in Okemos Michigan, where she currently resides. She graduated from Michigan State University in 2014 with Honors, and obtained her teaching certification in 2016. She is currently working on a Masters of Arts in Education with a concentration in Language Arts. She has many interests outside of teaching including running and traveling. She has been fortunate to work with volunteer organizations including ACTION through Okemos High School and Girls on the Run.



Miranda Spare

Originally from Clarkston, Michigan, Miranda has only been living in the Lansing area for about 3 ½ years. She graduated from Michigan Technological University in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. She began her career on the private side of the industry, working with a couple of consultants in southeast Michigan while living in Clarkston after college, but a desire for a new change and new job brought her to East Lansing where she enjoyed living with her rescue dog, Bailey. Fast forward 3 years, Miranda is now living in south Lansing, shares 3 rescue dogs with her husband Jacob, obtained her Professional Engineer license and is working at Michigan Department of Transportation. Miranda entered college knowing she would want to have a career in engineering and selected civil engineering because of the impacts that it has on the public. Her focus has been designing roadways, sidewalks and other infrastructure for local municipalities, counties and the State of Michigan, which has led her to her current position as a design Project Manager for state projects in the Tri-County area.



Elizabeth Thelen

Elizabeth Thelen is a recent graduate from the Master's in Public Health Program at Michigan State University. She also has Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Michigan State. She currently works full-time as the Recruitment Coordinator at Home Instead Senior Care in East Lansing. Any spare time she has is spent volunteering with the Mother Teresa House hospice home in Lansing, the Young Professional Alzheimer's Advocates of Lansing, and The Davies Project for Mid-Michigan Children. Newlywed in August 2017, she also enjoys spending time with her husband, Collin, and their two cats, Obie and Dexter. She has a passion for helping others in her community when able and is really looking forward to joining the Junior League of Lansing.



Alyssa Turcsak

Alyssa Turcsak joined the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project family in May 2017. As a native of Iowa, she earned a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) credential from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance during her undergraduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Alyssa spreads love in the world by advocating for those living with mental illness and by serving as a RESULTS REAL Change Fellow focused on Global Poverty. She loves (real life) love stories, reading, taking care of her plants, and being outside.



Julie Vogel

Julie graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in communication. She began working in the communications and marketing field but ultimately found her place in a recruiting role. She currently works as a recruiter for Colonial Life.

Julie has always been passionate about helping her community and is a lifelong 4-H member. She still serves as a leader in St. Clair County, MI. She now lives in downtown Lansing with her husband and their two dogs. In her free time she enjoys reading, traveling, advising for her sorority, working out and spending time at her family's farm.



Jennifer Whitney

Jennifer Whitney is the mother of two active teens, Allison & Blake. She works as a Senior Sales Professional with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company. Born and raised in the city of Detroit, she has spent more than 25 years working and living in the greater Lansing area. She is a graduate of Cass Technical High School and has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. As a proud member of Jack and Jill America, Inc., Greater Lansing Chapter, MSU Black Alumni Associate, Inc. and a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, Jennifer is committed to impacting the lives of others positively.

She enjoys traveling with her fiancé, Harold and eating almost any cuisine prepared by someone other than herself.

2018 NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUED



Abbey Wright-Geddes

Abbey grew up in Northville, MI and forever loves her small hometown. She spent a year in high school living in Bangkok, Thailand where her dad worked. After attending Eastern Michigan University, Abbey followed her then-boyfriend to Washington D.C. where she worked in political finance and events. Her hometown of Northville called when she was asked to become the Director of the Northville Art House, a small, nonprofit, arts center. After three years running the Art House she left to become a Development Assistant for ComArtSci at MSU. Abbey lives in a historic home on the westside of Lansing with her husband Chet, hound dog Wedge Antilles, and roommate mother. She is probably the world's biggest Star Wars fan and enjoys cooking, reading, traveling, and long walks on the beach.



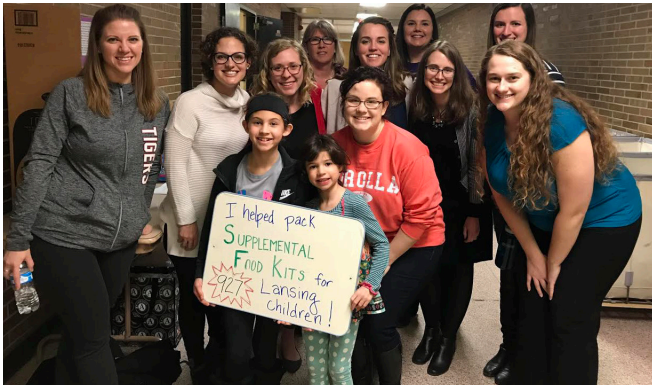
Joint Member Relations & New Member Recruitment Tailgate at an MSU Football Game



February's New Member Training at St. Vincent Catholic Charities



Super New Member Award Winner, Angelica Cox



New Members jumping right into the service aspect of League, helping pack food kits with active members



New Members meeting up for brunch at Beggar's Banquet



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**Contact the office by phone at: 517.324.8716
or email: office@jllansing.org**

Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.